



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 25 2003

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George Voinovich
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air,
Wetlands and Climate Change
Committee on Environment and Public
Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mssrs. Chairmen:

I would like to thank you for your sponsorship of the President's Clear Skies legislation and your efforts to advance it in the Senate. Your recent subcommittee hearing was the first Congressional hearing this session on our groundbreaking efforts to further reduce air pollution from power plants.

The hearing outlined many issues that will be debated and discussed as we move through the legislative process to passage. I noted with particular interest the comments by several witnesses that we not hold hostage Clear Skies' certain and aggressive reductions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury emissions to a debate on whether carbon dioxide should be regulated.

The Administration shares these views. As the President stated in his March 13, 2001 letter to several of your colleagues: "I do not believe...that the government should impose on power plants mandatory emissions reductions for carbon dioxide, which is not a "pollutant" under the Clean Air Act." And as I and other witnesses stated clearly, the time to act on Clear Skies is now.

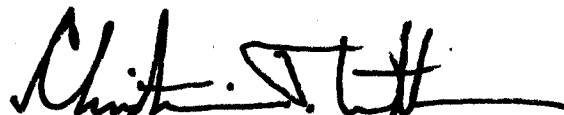
Among other reasons why CO₂ should not be included in the Clear Skies Act is that pursuing sharp reductions in carbon dioxide from the electricity-generating sector alone could cause dramatic fuel shifts, thus running the risk of endangering national energy security and increasing energy costs to consumers. It would be a shame to lose the significant near-term

public health and environmental benefits that will come from reducing these three pollutants. The challenges associated with potential long-term global climate change warrant an entirely different approach, including a concentrated focus on developing and deploying advanced energy and sequestration technologies, both in the United States and throughout the world, as we improve our understanding of global climate science. In the near term, the President's goal is to slow down the rate of growth in emissions of greenhouse gases through voluntary measures, including EPA's highly successful energy efficiency, methane, and Climate Leaders programs.

Early in this Administration, the President convened a cabinet-level process to advance our research on global climate science and energy technologies, and to develop mitigation initiatives. Last week, the White House provided you a fact sheet enumerating the many actions being taken by the Administration to implement the President's strategy. These actions represent a comprehensive range of domestic and international initiatives that tap the power of markets, realize the promise of technology and ensure the widest-possible global participation, while encouraging sustained economic growth.

Again, thank you for your leadership and efforts on Clear Skies. I look forward to continuing to work with you to pass this legislation. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Diann Frantz in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-3668.

Sincerely yours,



Christine Todd Whitman

cc: Senator James Jeffords
Senator Thomas Carper